



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 142

February Session, 2012

Substitute House Bill No. 5294

House of Representatives, March 27, 2012

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING LATERAL CERTIFICATION OF POLICE OFFICERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 7-294d of the 2012 supplement to
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2012*):

4 (b) No person may be employed as a police officer by any law
5 enforcement unit for a period exceeding one year unless such person
6 has been certified under the provisions of subsection (a) of this section
7 or has been granted an extension by the council. No person may serve
8 as a police officer during any period when such person's certification
9 has been cancelled or revoked pursuant to the provisions of subsection
10 (c) of this section. In addition to the requirements of this subsection,
11 the council may establish other qualifications for the employment of
12 police officers and require evidence of fulfillment of these
13 qualifications. The certification of any police officer who is not

14 employed by a law enforcement unit for a period of time in excess of
15 two years, unless such officer is on leave of absence, shall be
16 considered lapsed. Upon reemployment as a police officer, such officer
17 shall apply for recertification in a manner provided by the council. The
18 council shall certify any applicant who presents evidence of
19 satisfactory completion of a program or course of instruction in
20 another state equivalent in content and quality to that required in this
21 state, provided such applicant passes an examination or evaluation as
22 required by the council. A police officer certified in accordance with
23 subsection (a) of this section whose certification has not lapsed or been
24 cancelled or revoked and who is a candidate for a new position as a
25 police officer with a different law enforcement unit in this state (1)
26 shall be subject to the entry level requirements established by the
27 council for the employment of police officers, except that such police
28 officer shall not be required by the council to meet the physical fitness
29 testing standards, and (2) shall not be required to repeat the police
30 basic training program.

31 Sec. 2. Subsection (f) of section 7-294d of the 2012 supplement to the
32 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
33 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2012*):

34 (f) The provisions of this section shall not apply to (1) any state
35 police training school or program, (2) any sworn member of the
36 Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services
37 and Public Protection, (3) Connecticut National Guard security
38 personnel, when acting within the scope of their National Guard
39 duties, who have satisfactorily completed a program of police training
40 conducted by the United States Army or Air Force, (4) employees of
41 the Judicial Department, (5) municipal animal control officers
42 appointed pursuant to section 22-331, or (6) fire police appointed
43 pursuant to section 7-313a. The provisions of this section with respect
44 to renewal of certification upon satisfactory completion of review
45 training programs shall not apply to any chief inspector or inspector in
46 the Division of Criminal Justice who has satisfactorily completed a
47 program of police training conducted by the division.

48 [Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, any
49 police officer certified in accordance with subsection (a) of this section
50 may accept employment with another police department within this
51 state without repeating minimum basic training.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2012</i>	7-294d(b)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2012</i>	7-294d(f)

PS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill will not result in a state or municipal fiscal impact. There are no costs or savings associated with waiving the physical fitness requirements for currently certified police officers who attempt to move to another law enforcement agency.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR BILL ANALYSIS**sHB 5294*****AN ACT CONCERNING LATERAL CERTIFICATION OF POLICE OFFICERS.*****SUMMARY:**

Under the Police Officer Standards and Training Council's (POST) regulations, POST-certified officers who move to a different police department in the state must meet all of the council's entry level requirements, including physical fitness standards, and be certified anew. (This is called "lateral certification.") This bill specifies that the officer, who must hold a current certificate, is subject to the council's entry level requirements, except the physical fitness test. (Under a 2011 law (PA 11-251), the officer is no longer required to repeat the council's basic training program.)

The bill also makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

BACKGROUND***POST Authority and Regulations***

POST establishes minimum qualifications for municipal police officers and enforces professional standards for certifying and decertifying them. Its entry level requirements for police officers include personal interviews, fingerprint examination, background investigation, psychological examination, criminal history record check, controlled substance screen, and physical fitness and medical tests (Conn. Agencies Reg. § 7-294e-16).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/13/2012)